

7.0 EFFECTS NOT FOUND TO BE SIGNIFICANT

Pursuant to § 15128 of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons used to justify why various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were, therefore, not discussed in detail in the EIR. A discussion of effects not found to be significant is not specifically required under NEPA. The following issue areas were determined not to have the potential to cause adverse effects and therefore have not been addressed in detail in the EIR.

7.1 Agricultural Resources

There are no lands designated as prime agricultural soils by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, within the study area. Further, the study area does not contain prime farmlands designated by the California Department of Conservation. The site is not subject to, nor is it near, a Williamson Act contract site pursuant to § 51200-51207 of the California Government Code. Therefore, impacts to agricultural resources would not occur.

7.2 Energy and Mineral Resources

The proposed action would not result in a substantial use of energy or the loss of a locally or regionally significant mineral resource. The project would divert some traffic from other roadways but would not add new vehicles to the system. Soils within Bautista Canyon are of granitic origin. Mineral resources in the area consist primarily of gemstone mines and other small mines. No mines in the SBNF are currently producing critical minerals. Future mining in Bautista Canyon is considered unlikely, since no limestone, sand, or gravel sources are found in this area. Therefore, effects to mineral resources are not considered significant.

Fossil fuels would be used during construction. Such use of energy sources would be temporary. Most vehicles using the improved roadway would be utilizing fossil fuels. However, the improvements in traffic conditions due to the proposed action would allow for more efficient utilization of fossil fuels. Further, the project would divert traffic from other roads and not add new vehicles to the circulation system. As such, the proposed action would not require the development of new sources of energy.

7.3 Population and Housing

The proposed action proposes no residential development and no displacement would occur. Thus, the proposed action would not significantly alter the planned location, distribution, or growth of the human population in the area, nor would it create a demand for additional housing.